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Jottings of Louisiana

BY

WILLIS J. ROUSSEL

New Orleans, La.



JOTTINGS OF LOUISIANA

ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS LANDMARKS

OF

NEW ORLEANS,

And the Only Remaining Buildings of Colonial Days.

"They do not only form part of the History of the
United States, but also of France and Spain."

BY

WILLIS J. ROUSSEL.

New Orleans, La.

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POETICAL JOTTINGS OF THE HISTORY OF LOUISIANA.

— ♦ ♦ —
BY CHARLES GAYARRE
— ♦ ♦ —

The following quotations are taken from the History of Louisiana by Charles Gayarre, the eminent writer and historian, and will no doubt prove to be a very appropriate preface to this work, as it will admit a basis of comparison for "Louisiana as it is to-day."

After a masterly and graceful preliminary the learned historian said:

"I am willing to apply that criterion to Louisiana, considered both physically and historically; I am willing that my native State, which is but a fragment of what Louisiana formerly was, should stand and fall by that test, and do not fear to approach with her the seat of judgment. I am prepared to show that her history is full of poetry of the highest order, and of the most varied nature. I have studied the subject "con amore," and with such reverential enthusiasm, and I may say with such filial piety, that it has grown upon my heart as well as upon my mind. To support the assertion that the history of Louisiana is eminently poetical, it will be sufficient to give you short graphical descriptions of those interesting events which constitute the annals. Bright gems they are, enriching her brow, diadem-like, and worthy of that star which has sprung from her forehead to enrich the American constellation in the firmament of Liberty."

HERNANDO De SOTO.

"On the 31st. of May, 1539, the Bay of Santa Spiritu, presented a curious spectacle. Eleven vessels of quaint shape bearing the broad banner of Spain, were moored close to the shore; one thousand men of infantry and three hundred and fifty men of cavalry, fully equipped, were landing in proud array under the command of Hernando De Soto, one of the most illustrious companions of Pizarro in the conquest of Peru, and reported one of the best lancers of Spain."

* * * * *

"Among his followers are gentlemen of the best blood of Spain and of Portugal."

* * * * *

"Now he is encamped in the territory of the Chickesaws, the most ferocious of the Indian tribes. And lucky was it that De Soto was as prudent as he was brave, and slept equally prepared for the defence and for the attack. Hark! in the dead of a

Winter's night, when the cold wind of the North, in the month of January, 1541, was howling through the leafless trees, a simultaneous howl was heard, more hideous far than the voice of the tempest. The Indians rushed impetuously with firebrands, and the thatched roofs which sheltered the Spaniards are soon on fire, threatening them with immediate destruction. The horses rearing and plunging in wild affright, and breaking loose their ligaments, the undaunted Spaniards, half naked, struggling against the devouring element and the unsparing foe; the deep-toned shouts of "St. Jago and Spain" to the rescue; the demon-like shrieks of the red warriors; the final overthrow of the Indians, the hot pursuit by the light of the flaming village, form a picture highly exciting to the imagination; and cold, indeed, must be he who does not take delight in the strange contrast of the heroic warfare of chivalry on one side, and of the untutored courage of man in his savage state on the other."

"It would be too long to follow DeSoto in his peregrinations during two years through part of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. At last he stands on the banks of the Mississippi, near the spot where now flourishes the Egyptian named city of Memphis. He crosses the mighty river, and onward he goes, up to the White River, while roaming over the territory of Arkansas. Meeting with alternate hospitality and hostility on the part of the Indians, he arrives at the mouth of Red River, within the present limits of the State of Louisiana. There he was fated to close his adventurous career."

FATHER MARQUETTE AND JOLIET.

"One hundred and thirty years had passed away since the apparition of DeSoto on the soil of Louisiana, without any further attempt of the white race to penetrate into the fair region, when, on the 7th. of July, 1673, a small band of Europeans and Canadians reached the Mississippi, which they had come to seek from the distant city of Quebec. That band had two leaders, Father Marquette, a monk, and Joliet, a merchant, the prototype of two great sources of power, religion and commerce, which, in the course of time, were destined to exercise such influence on the civilization of the Western territory, traversed by the mighty river which they had discovered. That humble monkish gown of Father Marquette concealed a hero's heart, and in the merchant's breast there dwelt a soul that would have disgraced no belted knight.

ROBERT CAVALIER De La SALLE.

"Seven years since the expedition of Marquette and Joliet had rolled by when Robert Cavalier de La Salle, in the month of

January, 1682, feasted his eyes with the far famed Mississippi. For his companions he had forty soldiers three monks, and the Chevalier de Tonti."

* * * * *

"Brought into contact with Count Fontenac, who was the Governor of Canada, he communicated to him his views and projects for the aggrandizement of France, and suggested to him the gigantic plan of connecting the St. Lawrence with the Mississippi by an uninterrupted chain of Forts."

* * * * *

"On the 15th of September, 1678, proud and erect with the consciousness of success, La Salle stood again in the walls of Quebec, and stimulated by the cheers of the whole population, he immediately entered into the execution of his projects. Four years after, 1682, he was at the mouth of the Mississippi, and in the name, (as appears by a Notarial Act still extant) of the 'most puissant, most high, most invincible and victorious Prince, Louis the Great, King of France,' took possession of all the country which he had discovered."

* * * * *

"To relate all of the heart thrilling adventures which occurred to La Salle during the four years which elapsed between the opening and conclusion of that expedition, would be to go beyond the limits which are allotted to me. Suffice it to say, that at this day, to overcome the one-hundredth part of the difficulties which he had to encounter, would immortalize a man."

IBERVILLE AND BIENVILLE.

"A few years after the death of La Salle, which occurred in 1687, by the hands of brutal companions, within the limits of Texas, a French Ship of 42 guns, the Pelican, commanded by Iberville, after sinking an English vessel of 52 guns in a naval battle, on the coast of New England, and whipping two other vessels of 42 guns each in the same fight, in the beginning of March, 1699, entered the Mississippi, accompanied by his brother, Bienville, and Father Anastase, the former companion of La Salle in his expedition down the river in 1682."

* * * * *

"In 1703 war had broken out between Great Britain, France and Spain, and Iberville, a distinguished officer of the French Navy, was engaged in expeditions that kept him away from the colony. It did not cease, however, to occupy his thoughts, and had become clothed, in his eye, with a sort of family interest. Louisiana was then left for some time to her scanty resources; but, weak as she was, she gave early proofs of that generous spirit which has since animated her."

* * * * *

"Iberville sent his brother, Chateague to the colony, accompanied by seventeen persons, as immigrants to the new colony."

"The excitement of this new arrival had hardly subsided when it was revived by the appearance of another ship, and it became intense when the inhabitants saw a procession of twenty females, with veiled faces, proceeding arm in arm, and two by two, to the house of the governor, who received them in State and provided them with suitable lodgings. But the next morning, which was Sunday, the mystery was cleared up by the officiating priest reading from the pulpit of the mass the following communication from the Minister Bienville:

"His Majesty sends twenty girls, to be married to the Canadians, and to the other inhabitants of Mobile, in order to consolidate the colony. All these girls are industrious, and have received a pious and virtuous education. Beneficial results to the colony are expected from their teaching their useful attainments to the Indian females. In order that none be sent except those of known virtue and unspotted reputation, His Majesty did intrust the Bishop of Quebec with the mission of taking those girls from such establishments, as from their very nature and character, would put them above all suspicions of corruption. You will take care to settle them in life as well as may be in your power, and to marry them to such men as are capable of providing them with a commodious home."

* * * * *

CONDENSED ITEMS OF INTEREST OF THE EARLY HISTORY.

Sauvolle was the first Governor of Louisiana. He died in 1701, and was succeeded by Bienville, the second Governor.

Iberville went to France in 1701, and remained absent from Louisiana four years.

Thirty-five colonists died of starvation in 1705.

In 1706, the French girls brought to the colony were indignant at being fed on corn bread, and threatened to leave the colony on the first opportunity. This is called the "petticoat insurrection."

The three most important personages in the Commonwealth of Louisiana at that time were Bienville, the governor, who wielded the sword, and was the great executive mover of all; La Salle, the intendant commissary of the crown, who had, therefore, might be called the controlling power; and the Curate de la Vente, who was not satisfied with mere spiritual influence. The commissary in a letter of the 7th of December, 1706, accused Iberville, Bienville and Chateague, the three brothers, of being guilty of every sort of malfeasances and delapidations. The curate backed La Salle.

After an existence of nine years; the population of the colony did not exceed 279 persons. Its principal wealth consisted in 50 cows, 40 calves, 4 bulls, 8 oxen, 1400 hogs and 200 hens.

In 1709 famine re-appeared in the colony, and the inhabitants were reduced to live on acorns.

The scarcity of provisions had become such, that in 1710, Bienville informed his government that he had scattered the greatest part of his men among the Indians, upon whom he had quartered them for food.

In 1712, Anthony Crozat obtained from the King of France the exclusive privilege, for fifteen years, of trading in all that immense territory which, with its undefined limits, France claimed as her own under the name of Louisiana. The charter of concessions virtually made Crozat the Supreme Lord and Master of Louisiana.

In 1713 Cadillac is made governor of Louisiana.

The famous banking company of the Indies, with John Law at its head, was started in 1717. John Law was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1671.

Bienville was appointed governor of Louisiana, the second time, in 1718, and founded the city of New Orleans, the same year.

In 1724 the white population of New Orleans amounted to 1700 souls, and the black population to 3300. In New Orleans, there were about 1000 souls including troops, and the persons employed by the government.

In the beginning of 1727, the spot where now stands New Orleans, not being protected by a levee, was subject to annual inundation, and presented no better aspect than that of a vast sink or sewer.

Mosquitoes buzzed, and enormous frogs croaked incessantly in concert with other indescribable sounds; tall reeds, and grass of every variety grew in the street, and in the yards, so as to interrupt communication, and offered a safe retreat, and places of concealment to venomous reptiles, wild beasts, and malefactors, who, protected by these impenetrable jungles, committed with impunity all sorts of evil deeds.

In 1729 the French at Natchez were massacred by the Indians. The Indians captured and spared about 300 women and children whom they intended to make slaves of.

In 1733 the French Colony in Louisiana was scourged by small pox and famine. A companion of Bienville wrote: "Our planters and mechanics are dying of hunger. The colony is on the eve of being depopulated. The colony is in such a state of indigence that, last year, the people were obliged, for more than three months, to live on the seeds and grains of reeds."

On the 15th. of April, 1735, Bienville wrote on the state of the colony:

"One hundred thousand pounds of tobacco are made at Pointe Coupee; two women raise silk worms for amusement and succeed very well; eggs should be sent by the government to the Ursulines, who would teach this industry to the orphans whose education is entrusted to them. The cultivation of cotton is advantageous, but the planters experience great difficulty in cleaning it from the seeds. Pitch and tar are made in some abundance."

In 1736 the colony turned its attention to the cultivation of indigo. But little was made from silk through ignorance of the business.

The Balize Pass, in 1728, had sixteen feet and a half, and which Bienville represents as filling up rapidly, is known in our days as Southeast Pass.

The Marquis de Vaudreuil was appointed governor of Louisiana in place of Bienville, in 1743.

De Vaudreuil, in 1744, commanded the planters to have their levee made under penalty of forfeiting their lands to the crown.

The Marquis de Vaudreuil marked the beginning of his administration by following the old and nefarious custom of granting monopolies.

In 1744 the white population of New Orleans was 800 souls, not including 500 soldiers, and the women and children. A few of the houses were brick, and the greater portion were wooden buildings, or were bricked up between posts. There were 25 inhabitants whose property were worth from one hundred thousand to three hundred thousand livres. Almost all the colonists were married. The most considerable one of them was Mr. Dubreuil, who owned 500 negroes, several plantations, brick-kilns and silk factories. At the German coast, there were 100 white inhabitants, and 200 negroes. Occupations, gardening and grazing. Pointe Coupee, 200 whites and 400 negroes. Occupation, the cultivation of tobacco and the raising of provisions. Natchitoches, 60 whites and 200 blacks. Productions, cattle, rice, corn and tobacco.

The available force for defending Louisiana in 1746 was 400 white men, 500 to 600 Indians, and from 200 to 300 negroes.

A terrible hurricane in 1746, like that of 1740, destroyed the crops of the colony, and would have reduced the inhabitants nearly to starvation had it not been for the boats from Illinois that annually supplied them with Flour.

In 1751 the Jesuits sent some sugar-canes from Hispaniola to the Jesuits of Louisiana, and some negroes who were used to the cultivation of this plant. The experiment was abortive, and though cane continued to be cultivated successfully, it was only in 1795 that the manufacture of sugar was successful.

On board the same ships which brought the first sugar-cane, sixty girls were transported to Louisiana at the expense of the King. The girls were married to such soldiers as had distinguished themselves for good conduct, and who, in consideration of their marriage, were discharged from service. Such is the humble origin of many of our most respectable and wealthy families.

On the 23rd. of September, 1752, the Intendant Commissary, Michael de la Roubillere, made a favorable report on the state of agriculture in Louisiana. "The Cultivation of the wax-tree," says he, "has succeeded admirably. Mr. Dubreuil alone has made six thousand pounds of wax. Some went to the seashore where the wax tree grows wild, in order to use it in its natural state. It is the only luminary used here by the inhabitants, and it is exported to other parts of America, and to France. In the last three years forty five brick houses were erected in New Orleans and several fine new plantations were established."

In 1753 Kerlerec took possession of the government of Louisiana.

In 1755 the Acadian settlement at Grand Pre, Nova Scotia, was broken up by the English, under command of General Winslow, and the inhabitants, 1923 persons were taken prisoners, and most of them transported to different states. Their houses and barns were burned by the English, and their property confiscated to the crown.

On the 3rd. of November, 1762, Louisiana was ceded to Spain.

In 1765, there was a considerable immigration to Louisiana from the Alabamons and Illinois districts, which had been ceded to the English, and from the province of Acadia and Nova Scotia. About 650 Acadians arrived at New Orleans, and they were sent to form settlements in Attakapas and Opelousas, under the command of Andry.

Ulloa, the new Spanish Governor, arrived in New Orleans on the 5th. of March, 1766, and in February of the same year 216 Acadians arrived.

Ulloa at once ordered the census of the whole population of Louisiana to be taken, and the result was found to be: 1,893 men able to carry arms; 1,944 women, married or unmarried; 1,240 female children; 1,375 male children; total 6,452. The blacks were about as numerous as the whites. But the population was somewhat reduced by an epidemic closely resembling yellow fever.

A conspiracy was formed against the Spanish Government of Louisiana in 1768 and a general insurrection followed.

O'Reilly's administration under Spanish domination, continued one year to 1769. Unzaga's administration from 1770 to 1776; Galvez's 1777 to 1784; Miro's 1785 to 1789; Carondelet's, 1789 to 1792; Gayoso's, 1793 to 1797; Casacalvo's, 1798 to 1799, Salcedo's, 1801 to 1803.

A century has now glided over the ocean of time, since Louisiana was transferred to the United States, and the American flag was first unfurled before the large assembly of people which had congregated at the Place D'Armes, (Jackson Square) on the 20th. of December, 1803.

The Treaty with France was consummated by Robert R. Livingston and James Monroe, representing the United States, upon the 30th. of April, 1803, when the entire Louisiana possessions became the property of the United States, for the modest sum of \$15,000,000.00.



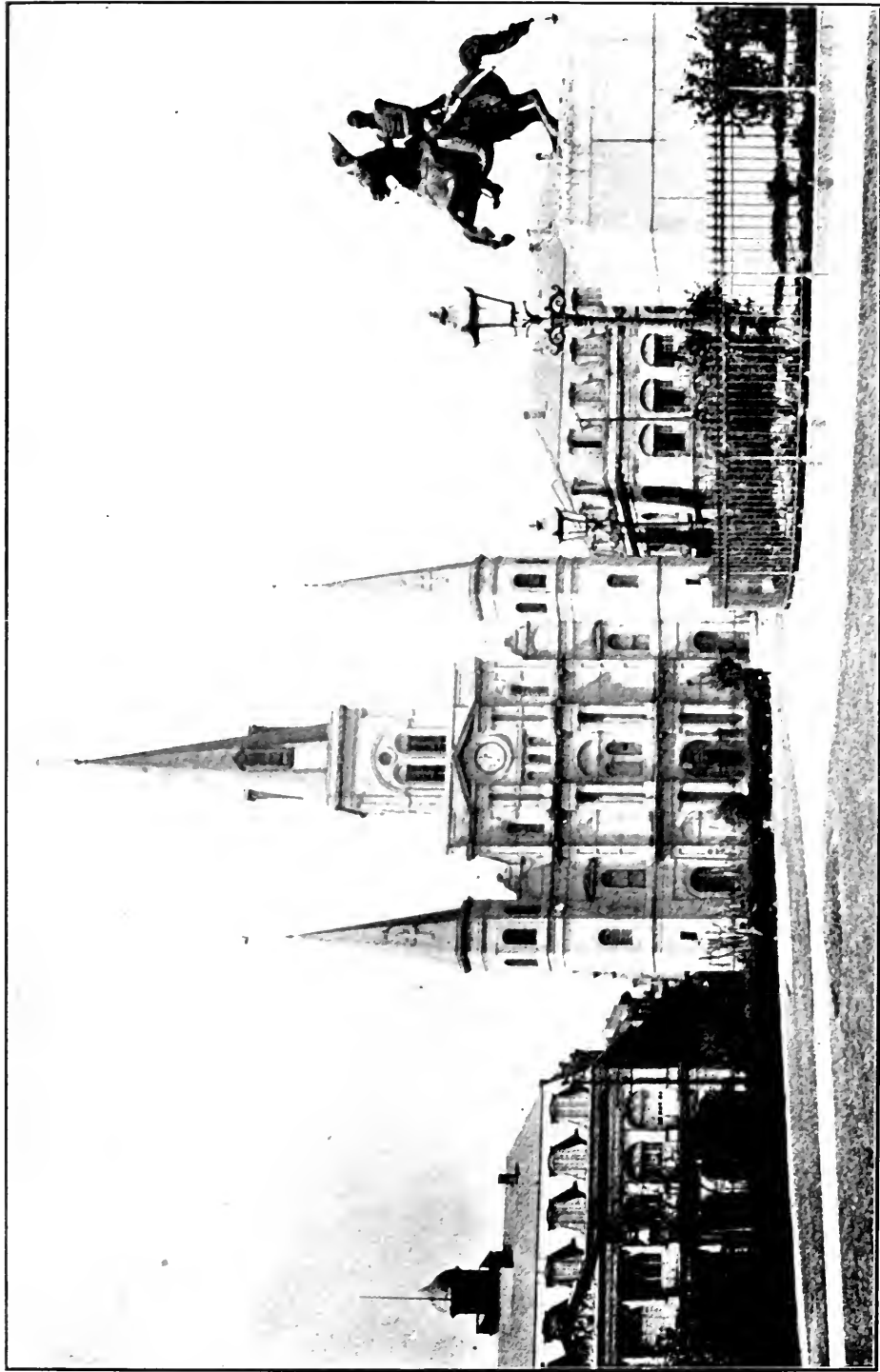


Photo. by Hitchler & Beattie, N. O.

*View of St. Louis Cathedral and Monument of General Andrew Jackson, in Jackson Square,
Hero of the Battle of New Orleans, 1815*

THE ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL.

Named in honor of Louis XIV, King of France. A brick and adobe structure was erected upon the space of ground reserved by Jean Baptiste Lemoyne de Bienville, the founder of New Orleans and governor of the French Colony, for the erection of a Roman Catholic Church of which in 1721 there remained but a shed—in 1723, a wooden church, which was replaced by a brick structure, in 1725—in 1793 a handsome Cathedral was built which still remains up to the present day. The latter edifice was the gift of the great philanthropist, Don Andres Almonaster y Roxas.

This brief statement covers a period of over 75 years and illustrates the several periods of construction, destruction and reconstruction of the Roman Catholic Church, now known as the St. Louis Cathedral, which has been a silent witness of countless calamities, ages of famines, pestilence, fire and flood experienced by the colonists until the present day. And its chimes nestling in the lofty steeples of brick and stucco, have never ceased to sing out in sweet metallic tones the victories gained by the christian colonists of the old colonial days.

The site where stands the present edifice was consecrated to the service of God nearly two centuries ago. Upon this space numerous churches have succeeded one another. The first structure was in 1723 destroyed by a hurricane, the second was entirely consumed by a conflagration in 1788 which almost completely devastated the city. This entire edifice was destroyed with numerous valuable records. The last structure which is the St. Louis Cathedral of to-day was begun in 1792 and completed in 1794.

How much historical importance can be attached to this solemn edifice which has witnessed the lapse of ages since its construction, up to the present time, the reader can naturally conceive.

Don Andres Almonaster y Roxas who was the founder of the St. Louis Cathedral, which he had erected at his own expense, was an Andalusian of noble birth, who came to Louisiana when it was under the Spanish Rule. He filled many important public positions. He succeeded by judicious ventures in amassing a very large fortune, of which he made very liberal use; for besides the St. Louis Cathedral he also caused the erection of a Charity Hospital then located in Rampart Avenue, and the buildings on each side of the Cathedral, one being known as the Cabildo, now the Supreme Court of Louisiana, and the other the Presbytery of the Cathedral, now the Civil District Courts. He also had constructed the Chapel of Lazarists and the Ursulines Convent.

Don Almonaster y Roxas was married in 1787 to Miss Louise de Laronde, daughter of Pierre Denis Delaronde, from which union was born on the 6th., of November, 1795 an only child, Micaela Leonarda Antonia, who married Joseph Xavier Celestin Delfau de Pontalba, in 1811, and she became the Baroness de Pontalba.

This notable event which took place at the St. Louis Cathedral was attended by the most distinguished personages of the Colony, Col. Bernard Marigny de Mandeville stood sponsor for the bride, and Chevalier de Macarty; Lasalle de St. Avid, Ignacio Delmo de Chalmet, and Mme. De Verges St. Laurent, signed the marriage records as witnesses.

This union recalls a bit of romantic history in which a young Scotch-Irish youth was made to feel the humble origin of his birth.

John McDonogh, whose memory is revered by every Orleanian, had not like the lovely Micaela Almonaster inherited a title of nobility from his ancestors, nevertheless, he loved and wooed this charming maiden. He was a gentleman of wealth and nobility of character with a grandeur of heart, and justly felt that this was sufficient to deserve the hand of the daughter of the proud Don Almonaster. He sought the privilege to ask her hand in marriage from her father, but the proud old Spanish nobleman indignantly rejected the suit, exclaiming: "That a daughter of his noble race would never be allied to a poor plebian tradesman."

McDonogh was stung to the heart with grief and mortification, and swore, "he would labor until he would accumulate more wealth than all the Almonasters put together; and his name would live to posterity when their proud titles would be cast into oblivion."

John McDonogh was of Scotch-Irish birth, and a native of Baltimore. He was well educated. And in 1800 he came to New Orleans where he engaged in commercial pursuits. At the time of his sentimental aspirations he was a gay young man, and a favorite in social circles. He lived at the corner of Chartres and Toulouse streets, where he was surrounded by luxuries, and attended by a retinue of slaves. After the failure of his suit to wed the lovely Micaela, he at once determined to change his mode of living and habits. In his anger he sold the contents of his magnificent residence, and moved to a small house on his plantation in McDonoghville on the opposite side of the river, where for half a century he led the life of a measley, coldhearted miser, whose only ambition in life was the amassing of large wealth. Wherever he passed he was pointed out as an old miser. He died in 1850, leaving his entire fortune to be divided share and share alike, between the cities of New Orleans and Baltimore. This

princely legacy which has been exclusively devoted to the building and repair of public schools, amounts now, with accumulated interests, to a fund of over a million dollars.

As to his prophecy it certainly fulfilled his fondest wishes. Over thirty school buildings constructed from this fund are scattered in almost every district of the city, and all bear the simple inscription of his name "McDonogh."

No condition was attached to the legacy, except that the little children of the public schools should come once a year and strew his grave with flowers. However, his remains have been removed to his native city, Baltimore, according to his desire; but "McDonogh Day" has been sacredly kept throughout all the public schools, where the children annually participate in memorial exercises in his honor, while the handsome statue erected in the park, opposite the City Hall, from the mite contributions of the school children, as well as the various bust statues of the great philanthropist, to be found in every public school are decorated with handsome floral offerings.

Don Almonaster's titles of nobility and name have vanished, but the virtues and name of "McDonogh," will live forever.

Don Andres Almonaster y Roxas died in New Orleans, on the 26., of April, 1798, at the age of 73 years. He was interred within a crypt, to the right of the Cathedral, directly in front of the altar of St. Anthony. Over his last resting place appears an imposing marble slab upon which is inscribed his Coat of Arms, and in Spanish the record of his life, titles and services, which translated reads as follows:

HERE LIE THE REMAINS
of
DON ANDRES ALMONASTER y ROXAS.
A Native of Marena,
In the Kingdom of Andalusia.
He Died in the City of New Orleans;
On the 26th. day of April, 1798.
Being 73 years of age.

A Knight of the Royal and Distinguished Order of Carlos III.

Colonel of the Militia of this Department.

Alderman and Royal Lieutenant of this Corporation.

Founder and Donor of this Holy Cathedral.

Founder of the Royal Hospital of St. Charles and of its Church.

Founder of the Hospital for Lepers.

Founder of the School for the Education of Girls.

Founder of the Court House.

All of which he had built at his own expense in this City.

Requiescat in Pace.

To the left side of the church are also buried under the marble floor before the altar of "Lady of Lourdes," three illustrious Knights of the old regime.

Upon the marble slab covering their remains is inscribed in French the following epitaphs which translated reads:

FRANCOIS PHILIPPE de MARIGNY de MANDEVILLE,
A Knight of the Royal and Military Order of St. Louis, and Port
Commandant of New Orleans, Born at Bayeux in
Normandy, died in this City, Nov. 1, 1728.

ANTOINE PHILIPPE de MARIGNY de MANDEVILLE,
A Knight of the Royal and Military Order of St. Louis, and
Captain of Infantry in the service of France, Born in
Mobile, February 28th., 1752, died in New
Orleans, November 6, 1779.

PIERRE PHILIPPE de MARIGNY de MANDEVILLE,
A Knight of the Royal and Military Order of St. Louis, Captain
of Infantry under the Spanish Government, Born
in this City on June 13, 1757, and died in 1800.

The Marignys de Mandeville were very wealthy and influential during both the French and Spanish regime.

In the center aisle, at the foot of the stairway leading to the main altar designated by a large cross of slate colored marble slabs imbedded in the flooring; also beyond the railing in the center of the sanctuary, at the foot of the central altar, are subterranean vaults in which have been buried the most deserving dignitaries of the Church, such as bishops, archbishops, etc. The last to be interred there was Reverend Archbishop Francis Jansens. He was buried in the vault situated in the sanctuary.

The archives of the St. Louis Cathedral which are kept in a large fire-proof vault, located on the ground floor of the Rectory in St. Anthony Alley, also presents curios in documentary specie. Some of them are so old that they are crumbling with age. We find therein that the first marriage performed within its sacred walls was that of Pierre Sinton to Nicole Daulmay, which occurred on July 1st., 1720, and the first Christening that of Catherine DePerrier on January 1st, 1731.

The interior of the St. Louis Cathedral is ornamented with beautiful fresco paintings by the eminent artist Casanova, whose name has been handed down to posterity, and the artistic execution has caused this work to be classed as masterpieces, which with the flight of time have been sacredly preserved up to this present day.

Some few figures, however, were replaced by new subjects more in keeping with the ideas of the nineteenth century, while others were retouched by the artist Erasme Humbrecht, the colors having become faint with age.

Among the most interesting pictures ornamenting the walls of this edifice is the tableau just above the central altar, representing "St. Louis announcing the Crusade."

Over the center of the main aisle is "St. Peter receiving the Shepherd's Staff from Our Lord."

There are four medallions in which are painted the Evangelists, St. John, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. Matthew, while between each of the twelve arches are one of the Apostles.

Over the choir appears the "Archangel Michael," while at the other extremity is pictured "The Holy Family." Over the sanctuary is pictured "The Sacrifice of the Divine Lamb." While symbolic figures of the old and new testament appear in the arched vault.

Another very impressive picture, is that over the altar of the Sacred Heart representing "The agony of Our Lord"—while over the altar of "Our Lady of Lourdes" situated upon the left is represented the "Annunciation." There the Virgin and Angel Gabriel, are shown in the most natural manner and the expression depicted upon the angel's lips seem to inspire the respectful salutation "Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, etc."

The altar of "Our Lady of Lourdes" is also a masterpiece of construction and coloring. There is found a true and life-like representation of the apparition of the Holy Virgin to the little peasant Bernadette, who is kneeling upon the rocky path in reverence and prayer, while the limpid waters from the spring which had spontaneously emerged from the rocks trickle down; and its murmurings mingle in unison with whisperings of the sinners, as they kneel in prayer for the salvation of their souls.

Another very impressive tableau which confronts the visitor as he is about to retire is a painting of St. Cecilia, the patron saint of Music. She appears floating upon a canopy of clouds, and in her flight she is followed by angels which are scattered around her. This painting is situated right over the organ.

The coloring of walls, arches and colonnades are also artistically matched, and the entire work is fully deserving the highest of praise.

THE CABILDO.

There is not a structure which stands to-day upon the American Continent from the Pacific Slope to the Alleghenies, and from the Atlantic Coast to the Gulf of Mexico, which offers more attraction to the World at large, than this edifice, variously known as "The Cabildo," or Capitol, or Casa Curial.

Its majestic walls which have stood the ravages of the elements, during a period of more than a century appear to-day in almost the same garb with which it was adorned when erected, in 1794.

It should be conceded that this illustrious structure does not simply belong to our history, but to that of France and Spain, both nations being intimately associated in the History of the Louisiana Colony, for both countries have taken an active part in the government and development of this territory; by the purchase of which the United States of America gained added power with vast commercial and territorial expansion.

Shifting from the subject, and gleaning from the history of the Louisiana Purchase, we find that the region comprised in the cession by France included all the country west of the Mississippi, not occupied by Spain, as far north as British Territory, comprising the whole or part of the present States of Arkansas, Colorado, Dakota, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory.

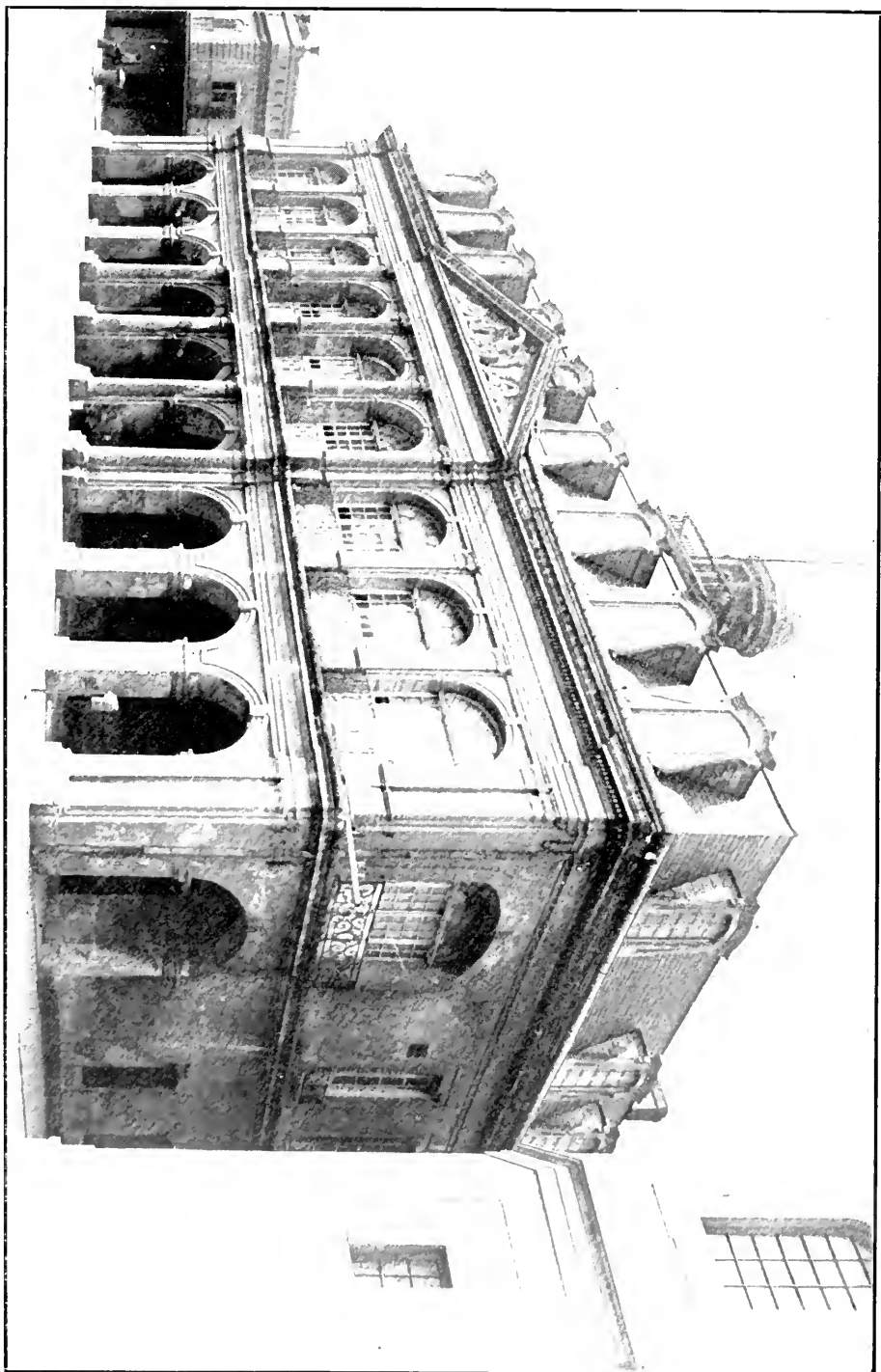
By an Act of Congress dated March 26, 1804, the territory was divided into two governments, that of Orleans including the present State of Louisiana west of the Mississippi, and a portion east of that river, and that of Louisiana comprising the country north and west of it.

In April, 1812, the Territory of Orleans was admitted in the Union under the title of the State of Louisiana, and in June, 1812 the Territory till then known as Louisiana had its designation altered to Missouri.

We also learn that from this vast extent of virgin prairies, swamps and woodlands west of the Mississippi arose numerous States and Territories, but a wilderness then of the Louisiana Possession, which to-day has great commercial and social importance. Depict to yourself the marvelous achievements of our forefathers, who by the opening of the gates to the great Northwest developed this vast territory to the Pacific Slope, and added to the Union new riches that lay hidden within the soil of these virgin states. Think of the vast resources of the south and west, as they stand unfolded to us at this present age of progress and civilization. The Red Skin has almost vanished while his arrows

Photo. by Hiedler & Beattie, N. O.

View of Spanish Cabildo or Supreme Court of Louisiana



and tomahawks are entombed. A more genteel and civilized racial order, more progressive and enlightened now rules, and from its management new fields of commerce and industry are daily explored. To this purchase is due the riches of our country, and the independence of our people, which has caused the admiration and astonishment of every nation of the world. The United States of America of to-day is no longer a settlement, but a country commanding the respect of every nation.

Returning to the old historical landmark which has been the main and silent witness of the days of reconstruction, secession, conquest and reconquest, we find a massive edifice erected by the liberality of Don Almonaster y Roxas, a Spanish gentleman of noble birth, who immigrated to this country when Louisiana was under Spanish Rule.

The Cabildo is of an ancient Spanish architectural style, and in appearance distinct from any modern buildings. It stands facing the Jackson Square, and is bounded by Chartres, Exchange Place, Orleans Alley and St. Peter street. The structure is of brick with stucco finish. Its facade is ornamented with deep, low arches supported by classic columns and broad arched windows. The upper floors are reached by a winding stairway of solid marble leading from the large iron front door up to a lobby, from which entrance is gained to every department in the building.

The large hall to the right of the lobby is now, and has been for a number of years, used by the Supreme Court of Louisiana. It is there where the Chief Justice and his four Associate Justices sit in final judgment over the judicial proceedings originating from all the lower courts of the State. The hall is spacious and imposing, while its massive walls are adorned with oil paintings of the great jurists of this State that once presided, but have submitted to the inevitable conclusion of life.

As you reach the head of the stairway you face the entrance which leads to the justices' private consulting room, to which no one is granted access, and where all decisions after due deliberations are reached and finally agreed upon. To the left of the lobby is the entrance to the Clerk's Office, and Record Room. In the upper floors are stored old records covered with the dust of a century. The lower floor at the corner of St. Peter street is the Second City Criminal Court, while the corner of Orleans Alley is a Police Station.

At the left, upon the other side of the Cathedral, is another structure which was first designed as a Presbytery of the Church; this is an imitation of the Cabildo, it was built in 1813, during the American rule and is now called the Civil District Court Building. In general appearance it resembles the old Cabildo nearly twenty

years its senior, but in workmanship and construction is very much inferior. The French mansard roof and cupolas were added to both buildings in 1850. Upon the cornice of the Cabildo also appears the American Eagle, ornamented with cannon balls. When this alteration was made there is no record, but it was undoubtedly effected during the period of American reconstruction, and intended to replace ornaments that were interposed at the time of the Spanish rule.

We find by referring to the early history of this country, that the inception of the Spanish rule was in 1762. Carlos III, then King of Spain, despatched Gen. Don Alessandro O'Reilly with 3600 picked Spanish troops, who took forcible possession of Louisiana then under the French rule. O'Reilly upon his arrival abolished the old French Superior Council and established instead the Spanish Cabildo. The French Council had been founded in 1712, by Louis XIV, for the government of his young colony; which had by this time grown independent and powerful, and by a desperate attempt at self-government had made a bold act in resenting the King's cession of Louisiana to his Spanish cousin, Ulloa, the first representative sent over by Spain. Ulloa was ignominiously overpowered and returned back to Spain. The six leaders of this revolt against the Spanish dynasty, were, however, promptly executed by the orders of O'Reilly, who thus began his reign and ended the Superior Council, in bloodshed.

It was then that O'Reilly, who had by this act incited the hatred of the people, established the Cabildo. It was presided over by the Spanish Governor of Louisiana, aided by his *exeribano*, or clerk; four elective officers, two *alcades ordinarios*; a *sindico procurado general*; a *mayordomo de propios*; and six perpetual *regidores*. First among the *regidores* stood the *Alferez Real* or Royal Standard Bearer, which title was acquired by Don Almonaster y Roxas, and which position he held during his lifetime.

The Cabildo met every Friday, in the large hall now occupied by the Supreme Court. The Spanish language was exclusively used in all governmental affairs, and it is not uncommon when in search of old records, to find them written entirely in the Spanish language.

The surroundings of the Cabildo differed somewhat from its present aspect. The Plaza de Armas was very much different from the Jackson Square of to-day, with its beds of flowers and verdant shrubberies. Up to fifty years ago, it was still known as the Place D'Armes, the original name given to it in 1718, when New Orleans was founded under the direction of *Sieur Jean Baptiste Lemoyne de Bienville*. Upon each side of the square

were two rows of one story brick buildings, put up by Don Almonaster in the last century. These buildings were used as shops and retail stores. This was then the center of the fashionable quarter. However, in 1850, the Paronness de Pontalba, the only child and heiress of Don Almonaster, had these shops torn down and replaced them with the tall brick structures known as the Pontalba Buildings. The Place D'Armes was also modernized, and wide walks and flower beds substituted for the old elms which grew in abundance. Later came the erection of the statue of General Jackson, the hero of the battle of New Orleans in 1815, which caused the alteration of the name of Place D'Armes to Jackson Square, and which name it bears to-day.

The Cabildo is certainly the most interesting landmark in all the history and development of New Orleans. It has witnessed the dim candle lighted town gradually succeeded by the street lamp, while the lamp lighted streets gave way to gas and electricity. It has withstood the decay of the first few factories which have been forgotten, and were superseded by the hundreds of great factories which exist to-day. The beautiful *senoritas* with their heads prettily dressed with mantillas, and with their short skirts, walking to balls, followed by slaves bearing their slippers, has made place for more Parisian elegance of dress and equipage. The almost nightly duels are things of the past, and also the roar of the evening cannon shot, that commanded the sailors, soldiers and black slaves to be indoors for the night. The old night watchman no longer sing out the hours of night and condition of the weather: "Ten o'clock and Cloudy," "Twelve o'clock and the weather Fair." All these customs have vanished, yet this silent witness has gazed down upon all of Louisiana's changes of rule.

Upon the change of dynasty, when in 1803, the flag of the Spaniards was lowered and that of France replaced once more upon the Place D'Armes, this however, but for a short duration of twenty days, as the French colors were superseded by those of the American purchaser. Thence fifty eight years later when Louisiana swore allegiance to the flag of the Confederacy; and her agony came when amid the roar of cannon and at the point of bayonets the stars and stripes were once more hoisted. Again, it has witnessed the complete fraternal reconstruction of the North and South, when under the same colors they fought side by side to free the Island of Cuba from Spanish rule. Within the vast hall of the Cabildo, Louisiana was transferred by Spain to France, and subsequently by France to the United States.

It was from the windows of this edifice that the French, and then the American rule was proclaimed to the assembled people. The Cabildo also witnessed the ceremonials accorded to Andrew

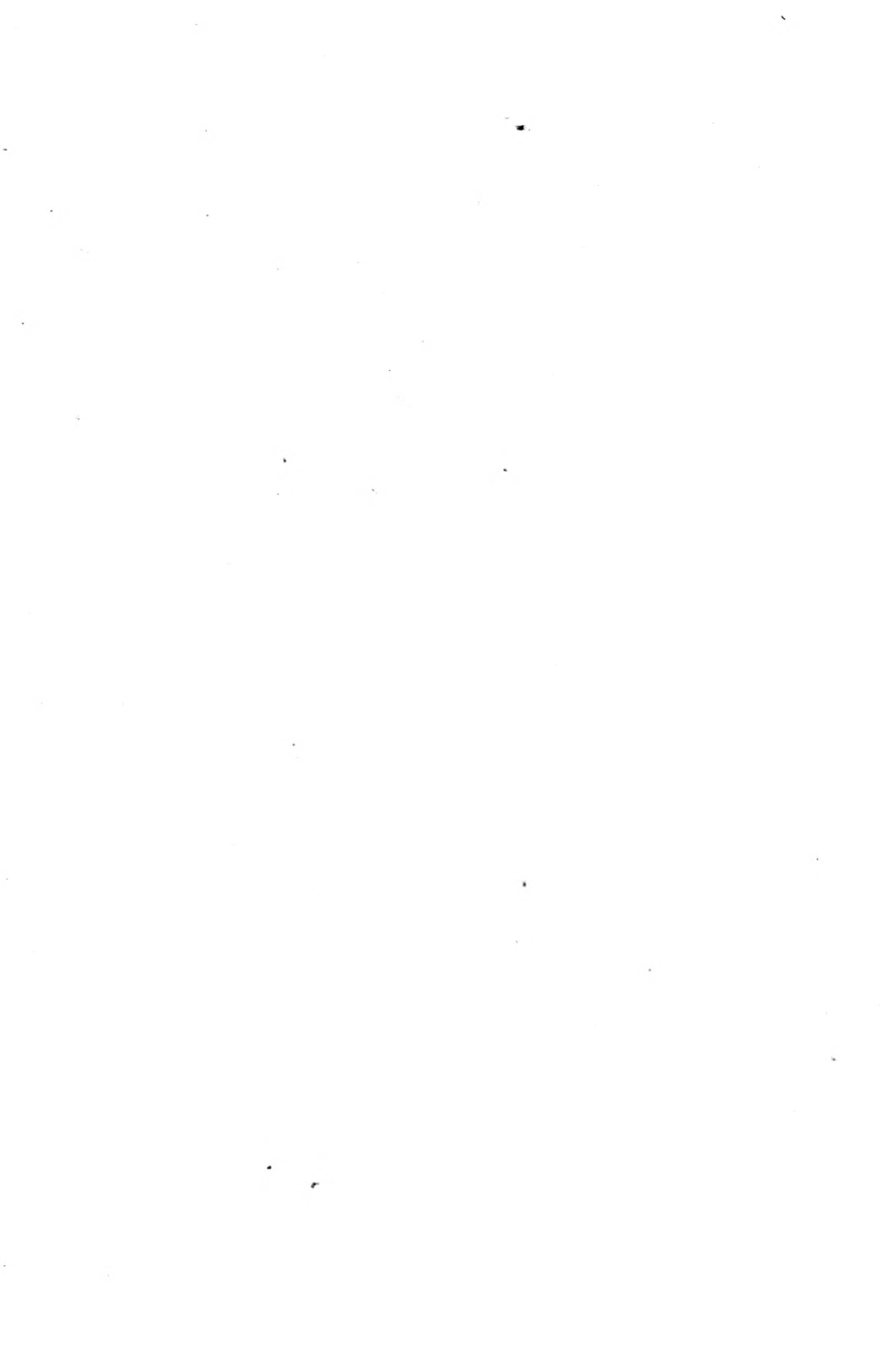
Jackson in 1815, for his victory over the British, in the Place D'Armes, where he was crowned with laurels by pretty maidens. In 1826 it served as the residence of the Marquis de Lafayette, who was the guest of Louisiana during his tour of the United States of America. And he was granted a reception almost the equal of that of Gen. Jackson. France was a friendly nation and the sale of Louisiana to the United States for 80,000,000 francs by Napoleon Bonaparte was not only a boon to the American people, but served as a retaliatory measure of France towards England. We, who are living to-day, can now fully appreciate the value of the prophecy of Bonaparte which has proven true.

He said, at the time of the transfer:

"This accession of territory strengthens forever the power of the United States; and I have just given to England a maritime rival that will sooner or later humble her pride* * * * *

"The day may come when the cession of Louisiana to the United States, shall render the Americans too powerful for the continent of Europe."





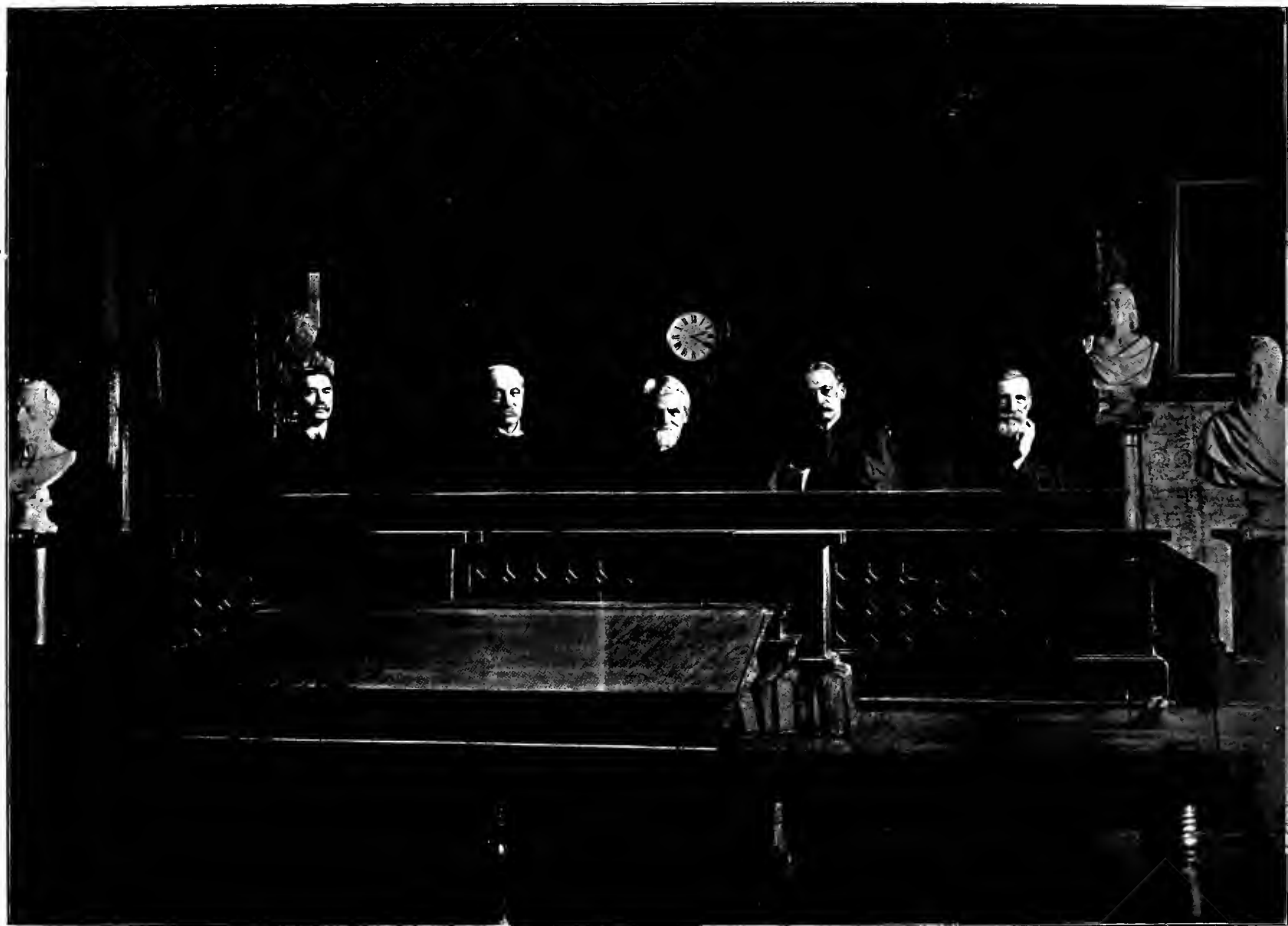


Photo by Hitchel & Beattie, N. O.

Justice Provosty

Interior View Supreme Court of Louisiana Showing the Five Justices

Chief Justice Breau

Justice Nicholls

Justice Monroe

Justice Land

GUBERNATORIAL STAFF OF LOUISIANA.

GOVERNORS OF LOUISIANA UNDER FRENCH RULE.

Marquis de Sauvolle.....	1619-1700.
Jean Lemoyne de Bienville.....	1701-1712.
Lamothe Cadillac.....	1713-1715.
D L'Epiny.....	1716-1717.
Jean Lemoyne de Bienville.....	1718-1723.
Boisbriant (Ad interim).....	1724.
Perier.....	1725-1731.
Jean Lemoyne de Bienville.....	1732-1741.
Marquis de Vautreuil.....	1742-1752.
Baron de Kerlerec.....	1753-1762.
D'Abadie.....	1763-1766.

GOVERNORS UNDER SPANISH RULE.

Antonio de Ulloa.....	1767-1768.
Alexander O'Reilly.....	1768-1769.
Luis de Unzaga.....	1770-1776.
Bernardo de Galvez.....	1777-1784.
Estevan Miro.....	1785-1789.
Francisco Luis Horter, Baron de Carondelet.....	1789-1792.
Gayoso de Lemos.....	1793-1797.
Sebastian y Cassa Calvo y O'Farrill.....	1798-1799.
Juan Manuel y de Salcedo.....	1801-1803.

GOVERNOR OF THE TERRITORY OF ORLEANS.

W. C. C. Claiborne.....	1804-1812.
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GOVERNORS OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

W. C. C. Claiborne	1812-1816.
Jacques Villere	1816-1820.
Thomas Boling Robertson (Resigned)	1820-1822.
Henry S. Thibodeaux, President of the Senate, Acting Governor	1822-1824.
Henry Johnson	1824-1828.
Pierre Derbigny (Died in Office)	1828-1829.
A. Beauvais, President of the Senate, Acting Governor	1829-1830.
Jacques Dupre	1830-1831.
Andre Bienvenue Roman	1831-1835.
Edward White	1835-1839.
Andre Bienvenue Roman	1839-1843.
Alexander Mouton	1843-1846.
Isaac Johnson	1846-1850.
Joseph Walker	1850-1853.
Paul O. Hebert	1853-1856.
Robert Charles Wickliffe	1856-1860.
Thomas Overton Moore	1860-1864.
Gen. C. F. Shipley, Military Governor	1862-1864.
Henry Watkins Allen, Under Confederate Government	1864.
Michael Hahn, Under Federal Government	1864.
James Madison Wells, President of the Senate, Acting Governor	1864-1866.
James Madison Wells	1866-1867.
Benjamin F. Flanders, Under Military Authority	1867-1868.
Joshua Baker, Under Military Authority	1868.
Henry Clay Warmoth	1868-1873.
John McEnery (Counted out by the Return- ing Board)	1873.
P. B. S. Pinchback, Lieutenant Governor, Acting Governor	1873.
William Pitt Kellogg, Governor de Jure	1873-1877.
Francis T. Nicholls	1877-1879.
Louis Alfred Wiltz, (Died in Office)	1880-1881.
Samuel Douglas McEnery, Lieutenant Gov- ernor, Succeeded him as Governor	1881-1884.
Samuel Douglas McEnery	1884-1888.
Francis T. Nicholls	1888-1892.
Murphy J. Foster	1892-1900.
W. W. Heard	1900-1904.
Newton C. Blanchard	1904-1908.

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